IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| Application Serial No.: | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Filing Date: | October 13, 1999 |
| Inventors: | |
| Applicant: | Microsoft Corporation |
| Group Art Unit: | 2178 |
| Examiner: | Oueler |
| Confirmation No.: | |
| Attorney's Docket No.: | |
| Title: Methods and Systems for Processing XML Documents | |

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

To: Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

From: Lewis C. Lee (Tel. 509-324-9256 x211; Fax 509-323-8979)

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INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated November 24, 2004, for which a three-month shortened statutory period for response is set for February 24, 2004. Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.